

SESAME

Number 210: June 2017

“Being worth the finding”: Outreach and Inreach - *QLRC at Woodbrooke* / Celebrating Creation in the rain / Meeting for Sufferings, April & June / Sylvia Marshall’s Bequest / NFPB / Banning Nuclear Weapons / Armed Forces visits to schools / 1653 & All That / AM May Minutes / YMG (!!)



The Wellgate Quiet Garden, Morebattle TD5 8QN – see page 7

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SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Our next Area Meeting will be in Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn, Fife KY3 9SS, on Saturday, 24 June. **It will begin at 10.30 am.** Tea and coffee will be available for purchase at the Community Centre from 10.00 am. We will have a bring-and-share lunch at 12 noon. Could Friends bringing savoury or sweet contributions please take these to the kitchen on arrival?

This is the second of our new-style Area Meeting community days and our hosts are Central Fife local meeting. This is a meeting with a rich community life of its own, which Friends have described as helping them “re-charge their batteries so that they are more able to let their lives speak”. In a facilitated session, they are going to help us explore building community by spiritual exploration.

Drawing on material from a recent meeting of Quaker Life Representative Council, Mary Woodward will be leading a session on “Helping seekers find Quakers: being worth the finding”.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children. The highlight of the children’s sessions is a visit to the Earthship and Kinghorn Loch. To help with arrangements, please let the AM Assistant Clerk, Alastair Cameron, know the number of children you are bringing.

Our business meeting will start at 2.00 pm.

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Worship
2. Introductions
3. Minutes of last meeting, 15 May, 2017
4. Matters arising
5. Recording decisions made by Between Meetings Procedure
6. Membership matters
7. AM Nominations Committee report
8. Correspondence and notices
9. AOCB
10. Closing minute

Tea will be at 4.00 pm.

Quaker Life Representative Council, Woodbrooke, 15-17 April 2017

Helping seekers find Quakers: being worth the finding was the challenging title of the April's Quaker Life Rep Council weekend.

On the Saturday, our three speakers gave their very different insights into how we can make ourselves worth the finding – *It's all very well to reach out, but what happens when someone turns up at our Meeting?*

Alistair Fuller, the current head of the Ministry & Outreach team at Quaker Life, talked us through the changing shape of membership in the Society of Friends – it's much more complex than just “ageing and declining”. All membership organisations – with the exception of the Women's Institute – are finding that society's attitude to membership, rootedness, and ‘belonging’ has altered radically over recent decades - people “do it on their own and on their own terms”, dipping in and out, taking what they want/ need, and avoiding responsibilities ...

Alistair's response was “DON'T PANIC: be creative, be imaginative!” He reminded us that outreach and inreach are indivisible, interdependent, and simultaneous: we need to go out into the world being true patterns and examples, attracting others simply by the way we are.

Our Local Meeting can be rich, creative, and nourishing – we need to foster a creative cycle where our individual inner life, our shared Meeting life, and the sharing of our faith stories nurture and enrich each other and help us to live out our faith. *Sharing our meetings' stories* is a report based on the stories of a broad cross-section of meetings which both identifies common themes which build up the life of the meeting and acknowledges the many challenges that can be encountered – an excellent starting point for any meeting wanting to take this further.

As an example of the rich, creative life of a meeting, Kevin Redpath of Mid-Somerset AM told us about Street LM's inreach and outreach and his conviction that strengthening the vitality of a Quaker meeting by sharing our spiritual gifts creates a welcoming spiritual community. For a meeting of twenty members with seven children, they do an incredible amount, including organising a food-raising concert at a United Reformed Church when the local foodbank ran out of food; offering their meeting house to local Muslims for Friday worship; acting together with other local churches to provide 250 Christmas lunches at the town hall; participating in

civic ceremonies and the life of the local community; organising a pop-up tearoom to complement a Quaker art display in the local library; sharing their Quaker stories via YouTube videos and Quaker newsletters...

Kevin was critical of meetings' introversion and inertia: "People will find us when they're ready" – how *can* they find us if they don't know we exist? "We tried that before and it didn't work" [... so we won't do anything.] He asked us to consider, in Doris Lessing's words "*the moment when we were touched by fire*", and asked us these questions, which he feels are vital in building a sense of community:

- *What can my Local Meeting explore doing as a common task?*
- *What are the needs in our immediate community?*
- *What stories could we gather and share from our own meeting?*

I found his talk inspiring, while at the same time thinking "it's all very well for people with their own Meeting House in the centre of a small town: what about those of us who meet in a multi-use building with virtually no storage space, on whose walls we are not allowed to put any posters – and maybe in an area in which very few of us actually live?"

Joannie Harrison, a member of Cambridgeshire AM/ Peterborough LM, exemplified "walking the talk": she spoke movingly and inspiringly about her work as a hospital chaplain in a multi-faith and multi-racial community. Her role is to offer everyone in the hospital – staff, patients, and visitors alike – pastoral, spiritual, and religious support, as alongside Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Muslim chaplains who offer a 24/7/365 service. It is definitely not "a painting by numbers ministry"!

Joannie sees hospitals as 'thin places', where people are on thresholds and in emotional turmoil, where god can break through more easily. She feels called to be authentic, and to see things as they *are*, to admit that at times there are no answers, to be "grounded in Quakerism but not precious about it". It's a 24/7/365 role; she has to listen faithfully, follow the promptings of love and truth, be open and vulnerable, and enable other people to find their own truth. Her work becomes her worship, what drains her is what feeds her, and she sees clearly "SOMEHOW GOD IS IN THIS". She ended by quoting Rufus Jones on finding his way home in the dark to the central reality – "and when we arrive, we know it".

In the afternoon workshops I found some much-needed refreshment and gentle stimulus in a number of ways in "Tending the garden of our soul", and was presented with a further challenge to add to those presented to

me during my Equipping for Ministry second-year residential the previous week (of that, more later on in the year).

Jon Martin's session "Reach out beyond the (Quaker) bubble" invited us to share the story of our journeying towards the Society of Friends, and then think how we as individuals and Meetings might clear the path for those who wish to find us. I found the group sharing interesting – though as ever we ran out of time – but was frustrated in my small group, as I was with two members of the same AM, both with Meeting Houses, who talked of their AM's successes and took little notice of my efforts to talk about my meeting's very different situation, while our facilitator was busy listening to, and encouraging other groups.

Saturday evening found me tired, and happy to choose what I thought would be the relatively undemanding option – watching the 1956 film *Friendly Persuasion*. Gary Cooper plays the husband of a Quaker minister in a mid-West Quaker Meeting: he, his family, and their Meeting find their principles challenged by the irruption around them of the American Civil War. It was a very intense, subtly understated film, with a lot of silence and some rather saccharine music: yes, very few of the central characters died, and the ending was rather too neat – but it was a good and thought-provoking film, which I recommend to you.

It's easy to write the factual report – What CATCHES FIRE for me?

My own experience was of coming to Quakers at a time of great personal turmoil and encountering in the silence of Meeting something that spoke deeply to me, and changed me, although nothing in my circumstances had changed. I was burning to talk to people about this after Meeting, but met with "and do you work?" "Do you have children?" "Where do you live?" – all friendly enough questions: but they didn't meet my need. *How can we do better?*

I became a Quaker despite my Meeting! I then had the luxury of eighteen months' study and deep conversations at Pendle Hill in Pennsylvania, first as a student and then as a community member. Since then, I have found such conversations are rare. Equipping for Ministry has helped to meet my need – but I wish I had more sources of nourishment nearer at hand... I can't be alone in this! *What is it, Friends, that stops us being able to talk about what being a Quaker means to us, both for our own development and to share with others – seekers, newcomers, and seasoned Friends?*

I found it heartening at the QLRC weekend to be in the company of other

people who felt similarly excited about being a Quaker, that we have something very valuable to share with the world, and that it behooves us to do all we can to offer it to other people. **Being worth the finding** seems to me of even greater importance than **Helping seekers find Quakers**. *How can we prevent finding Quakers being a huge disappointment?*

It is important both to let our lives speak *and* to practise finding the words in which to convey that which so many of us find hard to express. Meeting and talking together at LM and AM level, sharing our stories and learning from each other, will enable us to speak more confidently when we meet people new to Quakers – and, from my own experience, if we truly believe that we are Spirit-led, words will be given when we need them.

Speaking out comes more easily to some than to others, but that is not a reason to be silent! We can each speak in our own way – but it is vital to speak, not to clutch our treasure to our chests, afraid to share it, afraid of offending, afraid of being inadequate: the world is in crisis and we as Quakers have something unique to offer.

Questions you might like to consider individually, or as a Meeting:

We had been sent questions for personal reflection and/or to circulate round our AMs, inviting responses which we could contribute to the QLRC forum. Ill-health prevented me doing anything about this in our AM, so here are the questions we were asked to consider. [I am very happy to take part in any discussions you may have – contact me at mpwfisherrow@gmail.com or 0131 665 9192.]

What is it about being a Quaker that excites or inspires you? Is that reflected in your experience of local and area meeting? Do your meetings nurture the spiritual development of young people? How do they do that?

Do the people around you know that you are a Quaker? How do they know that? Do you have the confidence to be Quaker and do Quaker? What is the source of that confidence? What do you need to be confident in sharing your Quaker faith with others?

How do visitors find your meetings? Do you ask visitors how they found Quakers? Do you have a sense that your local and area meetings welcome visitors? How do they do that? Have you recently spoken to a newcomer? Let us know how it goes when you do.

Do you understand the role of Quaker Life in supporting meetings in their out-reach and in-reach? Are your meetings being supported by Quaker Life? What tools do you need to reach out to individuals and communities?

The short version:

- *What is it about being a Quaker that excites or inspires you?*
- *Do the people around you know that you are a Quaker?*
- *What do you need in order to be confident in sharing your Quaker faith with others?*

Useful information:

Quaker Life gives **support for Quaker Week** – this year's theme is “**in turbulent times, be a Quaker**”. Lots of information and support is there for the asking: yes, there's an ideas pack – but did you know you could have a Quaker Life speaker at your event? If yours is a DIY event, it's important to “be confident in selling our wares”: media training will be available at Yearly Meeting Gathering.

Mary Woodward

In the Quiet Garden

On 20 May 2017, the Rev. Bob King, rector of St Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kelso, led twelve of us (ten 'Piscies', two Quakers) through a celebration of the seven days of Creation. Of course, we had intended this to be celebrated in the garden all the way through, but the Almighty deemed it high time the thirsty crops of this fertile piece of South East Scotland got a satisfactory watering. And so it rained. At moments it rained quite spectacularly.

We assembled in the music room, just fitting in, and after a lovely weather-orientated blessing (*printed below*) Matilda and Douglas explained how they had altered the steep slope, the wide grass sweep, now bound in a circle of yew hedge (all the plants had been found in the garden); the fistful of proffered box seedlings which were now the uneven parterres; and how nature (or God) and rich manse soil had done the rest.

Nature intervened rather suddenly when Bob spotted the Aberdeen Angus calves in the field just beyond running races across the sloping ground. Were they likely to be still suckling? Oh yes, replied the Rev. Grace Redpath, who was assisting in the readings. We could see amid the frolicking beasts that there were some really very wee ones.

Two separate readings of each of the Days of Creation were read out, to start with the first two days. Lightness and dark were then the theme for exploring all the pictures in the house (bathrooms included). We returned.

After a brief discussion the next two days of creation were read to us. The rain obligingly stopped, so out we stepped, between showers. to savour all the senses, including those sweet Scottish spring scents of after-rain grass and azaleas, of geraniums and bluebells. We retreated for picnic lunch supplemented by large pieces of Christine Tucker's chocolate cake and returned to listen to the readings for the last three Days, our senses more alert than before, perhaps, and have enjoyed each other's companionship and the peace of the manse and its garden, here at Wellgate.

We think – we know – some people will return when the sun shines. The garden is always open on Fridays and Sundays.

Matilda Mitchell

The Gaelic Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face

The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Meeting for Sufferings

1 April 2017

I am the 'alternate' representative to Meeting for Sufferings, meaning I attend when our representative Henry Thompson of Central Edinburgh is prevented. This was the second Sufferings I have attended in roughly two years but I am sent (and read) all papers, and liaise with Henry.

After welcome and adoption of the agenda, we moved to a report from Ingrid Greenhow, Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees on the Trustees' meeting in February. A commendably brief, interesting report; perhaps of most interest to Friends in Scotland is the Trustees' continuing support of our Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer, on which a similar, but longer, report was presented to General Meeting for Scotland in March. She informed us that the Quaker Meeting Houses Heritage Project has come to a successful end. Within BYM, there are 345 Meeting Houses, 46 % listed. QUNO has been awarded three year legacy funding for the project on "Human Impacts of Climate Change". Friends House has received a Carbon Smart Gold Certificate for reducing its carbon footprint by 29 % since 2009. Being a Trustee can involve hearing of successful and enjoyable work.

This was followed by a report by Ursula Fuller and Mary Aiston of Quaker Stewardship Committee. We considered in small groups or twos or threes questions posed by the Committee, bearing in mind that all Quakers should be good stewards of our resources. Members of the Stewardship Committee are willing to come to speak with Area Meetings of what support they can provide (Daphne Wasserman of West Scotland AM is on this Committee). An interesting suggestion was that Annual Reports may provide a good opportunity for Outreach especially. The risk of difficulty in finding Friends to serve as Trustees and in other roles was acknowledged.

After lunch, Barbara Windle presented the report from Quaker World Relations Committee. They have carried out all the responsibilities and tasks required of them, an amazing amount of work for a small group. The report looked back to the work carried out, a key focus arising from the World Plenary in Peru is sustainability and it looked forward to future plans. Sufferings was asked to discern how British Friends can engage more effectively with the Committee. The only concrete suggestion was to engage with the Quaker World Relations Network (but I would need someone more adept with technology to tell you how so to do!).

Perhaps the most interesting part of Sufferings can be minutes received from Area Meetings. On 1 April, there were three:

- From Hampshire and Islands AM on *Towards a Vision of a Criminal Justice System* [see *Sesame* 208, pp. 12-17] – this was omitted previously, which has now been rectified;
- From Brighouse West Yorkshire AM on vulnerable adult members – this was forwarded to Quaker Life Central Committee and also to Quaker Stewardship Committee for consideration;
- From North East Thames AM on Transgender & Non-binary Inclusion – this was also forwarded to Quaker Life Central Committee for consideration. The Recording Clerk has informed us that the tabular statement now contains a third column for those choosing not to be listed as male or female.

3 June 2017

Unusually, this was the second consecutive Sufferings attended by myself as alternate (Henry Thompson, our representative, being prevented).

There were 3 substantial reports in the morning:

- A) the annual report of Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations (QCCIR);
- B) from BYM Trustees, including the financial report; and
- C) on *Our Faith in the Future* – to which Jude Acton of Leeds spoke.

A. (I am the representative from Scotland on QCCIR, just beginning my second triennium.) Stephanie Grant spoke to the report. The Committee's role and remit are both outward and inward. It represents Friends in many different inter-church and inter-faith settings, and it informs Friends about both areas of work. Recently QCCIR has been awarded legacy funding by BYM to research the challenges and opportunities in an ever more secular society, whose values are increasingly independent of a religious base. This research will be carried out by Woodbrooke in conjunction with QCCIR. At Yearly Meeting Gathering there will be four invited guests: a Zoroastrian, a Sikh, a Catholic Archbishop and a Muslim. After Stephanie had spoken, Friends' contributions were varied, many describing work by Friends across Britain covering a very wide spectrum. I was struck by what was said by a Friend from Cumbria, who focussed on two aspects of local ecumenical involvement in an area where many churches welcomed building submarines in Barrow in Furness – but he'd been able to give another perspective from our peace testimony; we don't need such work.¹

B. Ingrid Greenhow, Clerk to BYM Trustees, spoke briefly to their annual report. Peter Ullathorne, Yearly Meeting Treasurer, explained the main financial figures. We have comfortable reserves of £10.6 million. However to sustain this, donations from individuals and Area Meetings need to rise, but he recognised this may be difficult. Legacy funding, which is highly variable, is often now allocated to time limited projects, a welcome development (see above). Our hospitality section made the highest contribution ever to our running costs: after expenses, just over £800,000. There were no questions on the financial report.

C. *Our Faith in the Future* is a short document which “paints a word picture of the change Friends hope for” – that is, a future in which:

- Meeting for worship is the bedrock of living as a Quaker
- Quaker communities are loving, inclusive and all-age
- All Friends understand and live by Quaker discipline
- Quaker values are active in the world
- Quakers work collaboratively
- Quakers are well known and widely understood

The leaflet setting out these themes (with beautiful drawings) was published in its current form in May 2016 – there will be copies in your Meeting. Jude Acton, a Trustee of Leeds AM, gave an account of how Trustees used the leaflet to help discern whether a Meeting House should be sold. They had twice asked Meetings within the Area Meeting to report on their use of the leaflet, but without getting any response. However, using the headings to discern whether or not to sell to a property developer was very helpful. It was a useful tool. Other Friends added to this valuable presentation.

After lunch, representatives of Central Nominations Committee (CNC) told us how their new terms of reference were working after one year. They emphasised that local and Area Meetings should recognise the amount of work they carry out and, therefore, Friends should not be nominated to other Quaker work in addition. (Friends I spoke to later would welcome this). CNC recognise that local and area Meetings do also need Friends to serve. They welcome young Friends serving, even if they cannot complete a triennium because of changes in their lives. Looking to the future, young(er) Friends will serve again.

Fortuitously following CNC's report, Tim Rouse spoke on behalf of Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM), which is thriving, growing, flourishing. Its main activity is running three residential weekends a year. YFGM is seeking to increase young(er) Friends' participation in the wider Quaker community. It was good to hear such a positive report.

An interesting part of Sufferings is always the minutes from AMs. This time we heard from Bristol AM regarding fracking and divestment from fossil fuels (perhaps we could send them our AM minute on this) and from Thaxted AM on sustainability.

Finally, there have been several successive minutes from Kingston & Wandsworth AM, concerning who "sets priorities for central work" to which there were some strong reactions, although I'm afraid I didn't quite grasp what it was all about – I felt there were things not being said.

Kate Arnot

1. *The Friend may not have been aware of the work of the Social Responsibility Forum of Churches Together in Cumbria, which produced a very good discussion document on the Arms Trade (in April 2004, so now somewhat dated but still challenging) – see <http://www.churchestogethertocumbria.co.uk/media/pdfs/Archive/Events%202011/Arms%20trade%20discussion%20paper.pdf>*

Sylvia Marshall's bequest

A small group was appointed by Central Edinburgh Local Meeting to discern, taking into account everybody's comments / inspirations, how we should best spend Sylvia Marshall's bequest, remembering in part what her special interests were. We suggest that the money be drawn down over a period of several years, depending on the level of need.

Sylvia was interested in the Peace & Justice Centre (to which she also left money), wild places of Scotland, Scotland in general, Women in Black, attending Meeting for Worship and other gatherings at Faslane, knitting, jewellery, gardening, and of course many aspects of Quaker work and witness. She worked on farms when she left school – she and her husband had attended Wigton School. Besides the Peace & Justice Centre, she left money to the African National Congress, CND, Unlock Democracy, Amnesty International, Freedom from Torture (the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture), the Soil Association in Scotland, the RSPB in Scotland, the Canon Collins Trust, and the Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade.

We need to take into account our responsibilities:

- *Although Sylvia Marshall specifically left this legacy to Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting, legal responsibility for our funds ultimately rests with South East Scotland Area Meeting as that is the registered charity of which the Local Meeting is a part.*
- *In order to comply with charity legislation, and also because Sylvia left specific legacies to a number of non-Quaker organisations (see above), we should spend this money in support of Quaker activities, whether undertaken by groups or individuals. These could be at local, Area, General Meeting for Scotland or Britain Yearly Meeting level, or indeed a visit by a Central Edinburgh Friend or attender to a Quaker event or conference abroad.*

We have had a few suggestions already, such as a contribution to our children's activities at the local Nature Reserve, support for 'Woodbrooke on the road' visiting our meeting for special events, bursaries for people to attend conferences related to Sylvia's interests (as outlined above), and exceptional maintenance expenditure to the fabric of 7 Victoria Terrace as home to local meeting. Another idea was that we could help the [Quaker] Camfield Trust which gives support to those who attend Faslane events. The Trust assists small meetings to do things.

We are therefore asking for suggestions to be sent to 'Sylvia Marshall Bequest' c/o Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting Treasurer, Quaker Meeting House,

7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL or by email to

sylviamarshallbequest@gmail.com

This notice is being printed in both Terrace Talk and Sesame, as members of Area Meeting may have valuable ideas too.

Northern Friends Peace Board in Dumfries

The morning session of our meeting of 17 June 2017 was given over largely to reflection in small groups on recent events – the terrorist attacks, the result of the General Election and the Grenfell Tower fire were what dominated the discussion in mine – after which our clerk Jo Alberti challenged us to sum up what Friends had been saying in a single word: “Corbyn” was one group’s choice.

As ever, the Members’ Forum brought us news of a wide range of peace-building activities, many of them with or for refugees and asylum seekers, or to do with schools, both in challenging the encroachments of “military values” and more generally: we were told of the work of CRESST (Conflict Resolution Education in Sheffield Schools Training), helping children to deal themselves with playground fights and bullying. Friends also spoke of environmental concerns (fracking, of course), anti-militarism (the main events of Armed Forces Day, 24 June, are to take place in Liverpool and local Quakers are planning their response) and opposing the arms trade. On this, Karina McIntosh told us how the Edinburgh CAAT group is flourishing. In September, there is to be a major arms fair in London – DSEI (Defence & Security Equipment International) – against which Board members from several AMs intend to join in protests. (For more information on activities planned see <https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/> and <https://www.caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs>.) We had a written report from Janet Fenton, in New York at the UN conference to “Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination”, as it is officially entitled; its proceedings are scheduled to run from 15 June to 7 July, but are being boycotted by the UK and some twenty other states (the US ambassador, Nikki Haley, has said it is “almost forty”). Most of the nuclear-weapons states voted against a ban in principle when the current discussions were first proposed in October, although China, India and Pakistan abstained; North Korea, we were told, voted in favour! The states which are most strongly advocating a treaty

include Austria, Ireland and Sweden, which were also proponents of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the 1960s; since the treaties banning landmines (1997) and cluster munitions (2008) followed grassroots lobbying of the kind being undertaken by Janet and others it is to be hoped that a similar outcome may result this time too.

In the afternoon, our Co-ordinator, Philip Austin, updated us on current NFPB projects. The group working on *Sustainable Security* ran a workshop on “populism” for Westmorland Regional Meeting at Kendal in April, and is developing others with the general theme “Building Peace Together – Making Space for Hope”. The group is also in conversation with the Ammerdown Group (see *Sesame* 198) about work on “Rethinking Security”. Work on promoting discussion on alternatives to Trident-related employment in Barrow in Furness, which Chris Butler initiated, has grown into a larger project for Arms Conversion following the conference in November last year commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Lucas Plan – a report by shop stewards at Lucas Aerospace on how jobs could be retained if the company moved from weapons manufacture to the production of socially-useful applications of similar technology. Chris has attended two meetings on how this concern can be taken forward, at which the Newcastle Trades Council had been keen to raise awareness among trade unions (some of which, on their members’ behalf, regard conversion with suspicion if not downright hostility), and the Green Party were also enthusiastic. We also heard that there are to be two NFPB workshop sessions at the Yearly Meeting Gathering.

Martin Mansell reported on the work of General Meeting for Scotland’s Parliamentary Liaison Function Group – now renamed the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group. The first part of his report concerned the Quaker/Forces Watch petition to the Scottish Parliament and is reproduced (slightly expanded for the benefit of any new readers) on page 16. He also spoke of the April seminar reported in the last *Sesame* (209, pp. 16-17) and on how the PEWG plans to follow it up – thirty organisations were identified at the seminar as already engaged in relevant work. Martin himself recommended *Doughnut Economics* by Kate Raworth as “a recently published and highly readable description of what economics should be about” [Random House, hbk. £20].

The Board next meets at Darlington in October.

Alan Frith

A Letter from America

Greetings Friends!

The final session in the time that the United Nations allocated for its members to produce a treaty to ban nuclear weapons has begun today [15 June].

In March, 133 states and numerous delegates to the Conference from the world's civil society organisations made presentations and had the discussions that enabled the Chair, Ambassador Elaine Whyte Gomez from Costa Rica, and her team to produce the draft text for the treaty that will now be at the centre of the work to be done between now and 7 July when it is anticipated that the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty will be ready for signing.

There was a powerful sense of excitement and an enthusiasm for the work amongst civil society representatives as well as the diplomats as the first part of the treaty, the preamble that identifies all the core elements to be incorporated, was explored one paragraph at a time. While one could imagine that this would be a dry and pedantic process, no one involved lost sight for one second of the significance of the task being undertaken, and the consideration and attentive listening created a very exciting sense of progress and hope.

The activity was enthusiastically and prolifically shared on social media, and messages of support and appreciation were flowing in from across the world, for this ban is what's wanted and needed by so many of the people in so many places.

Many states had similar ideas about how to augment what was in the draft, with discussions around the gendered impact of the harm and of the importance of women's voices in the dialogue, and the importance of integrating recognition of the impact of nuclear weapons on social and economic development.

Most states and civil society wanted to strengthen the draft provisions around international humanitarian law, and there was recognition that the treaty needs to clearly function in relation to existing legal instruments, including the Non Proliferation Treaty, while addressing the shortcomings of these.

There were smiles and greetings in and outside the room, and the first side event of the conference, which considered how the treaty would be verified and the questions arising for both nuclear free and nuclear armed states.

We hope that agreements can be reached [on] threat, and preparations to use nuclear weapons, and the Scottish delegates are particularly interested in the issues of the transit of nuclear weapons and hoping for an explicit prohibition on this and also on financing; and we are looking forward to tomorrow's two side events, the launch of the latest counter-arguments book by Tim Wallis of Quaker Peace & Social Witness, and a pizza party with an opportunity to make banners and other

Janet Fenton

Scrutiny, Guidance and Consultation

on Armed Forces visits to Scottish Schools – our petition

The petition submitted in February 2016 in the name of Quakers in Scotland and Forces Watch, calling for visits to schools by members of the armed forces to be monitored so that their number, purpose and content are recorded, and for schools to be given guidance as to how the visits be conducted, and parents to be consulted as to whether their children should participate in them, was first considered by the Public Petitions Committee on 15 September 2016 and has had subsequent hearings on 24 November, 2 March 2017, 20 April and 25 May. At the March hearing, the committee acknowledged the strength of supportive views sent in by (among others) the Justice & Peace Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Young Scots for Independence, Scientists for Global Responsibility and the Scottish Parent Teacher Council, as well as individuals. The committee unanimously decided to call the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills, John Swinney, for questioning, and that they would hear a briefing from the MoD.

At the session on 25 May, the committee agreed the issue could not be moved forward until they had heard from the armed forces, with members pressing to have the head of recruitment give oral evidence. They also agreed to write to the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, asking for specific data on visits to be collected, and there was an acknowledgement that there was both hard and soft recruitment. The committee also decided to request information from the Welsh Government on the work they have been doing on this issue.

In addition to this, Ross Greer, the Green Party education spokesperson, has been tabling more question for us on cadet forces.

At the same time, a separate issue has arisen, which is the £50M set aside by the previous Chancellor to fund cadet force in state schools (including in Scotland) “prioritising schools in less affluent areas”. This conflicts with the Scottish Government’s responsibility for education in Scotland and we raised this issue through a GM minute to Meeting for Sufferings. At their meeting in February, Sufferings referred this concern to a number of Quaker bodies including QPSW.

First Friends in Dumfries (and elsewhere)

From Joseph Besse's Suffering of the People called Quakers, 1753.

The earliest meetings of the people called Quakers in Scotland were held about the year 1653; when several serious enquirers into the nature of true religion, and the purity and spirituality of gospel-worship, burdened with the formality, superstition and will-worship, under which the national preachers laboured to keep their hearers in bondage, began to separate from the publick assemblies, and to meet together by themselves to wait upon God in silence, and to worship him, who is a spirit, in spirit and in truth. As they were thus exercised in an holy silence, and awful humility of soul, they came to experience the quickning virtue, power and influence, of the holy Spirit of God, enabling some of them to speak forth his praise, and from a sense of his goodness to become instrumental for the edification of others in the faith. The first natives of this country, who distinguished themselves as preachers among this people, were William Osborne, Richard Ree, and Alexander Hamilton: This Alexander Hamilton, with his wife and sister, had been members of a society or church of independents, whereof one Thomas Chartres was the pastor or teacher. Their departure from the church was regretted by the rest of the society, they being persons esteemed for their regular life and religious deportment, and Chartres would willingly have reduced them to come again and sit under his teachings, but finding all his endeavours to that purpose ineffectual, he at length threatned them with excommunication, and appointed a day for passing that sentence, giving the said Alexander Hamilton previous notice thereof. Hamilton warned him *to forbear, lest the anger of the Lord should be provoked against him.* This caution Chartres regarded not, but answered, *It is but Alexander Hamilton that says so:* To which Hamilton, in the presence of many witnesses, replied, that *It was not only he, but what he had said, was of the Lord.* But Chartres persisted in his resolution, which yet he was prevented from putting into execution, in a remarkable manner, whether providentially or accidentally, we leave to our readers judgment, and shall only relate the matter of fact, being as follows, *viz.* About two days before the time he had fixed for pronouncing the sentence of execution against the said persons, as he was walking in the steeple-house yard, where his horse was grazing, he stept to him to stroke him, when the horse gave him such a violent kick on the side as proved mortal, and occasioned his death about the same time in which he had purposed to pass the said sentence. By this means his design was frustrated, and *the curse causless did not come.* Prov. xxvi. 2.

Some of the first of this people from England, who travelled into Scotland, were Christopher Fell, George Wilson, John Grave, Sarah Chevers, and Katharine Evans; also Miles Halhead and James Lancaster, who in the year 1654, being at Dumfries, and Miles, after the priest had ended his customary performance in the steeple-house there, testifying against the deceit and hypocrisy of the people, they were so enraged, that they forced him and his companion out of the town to the side of a great river, intending there to have stoned them, but they, by wading through the river, escaped their hands. After which they were at Edinburgh and Leith about ten days, where Miles delivered to the officers and captains of the army and garrisons his message, which was, that *The anger of the Lord was kindled against them, because they had not performed their promises, which they made to him in the day of their distress, when the enemies compassed them on every side, for then the Lord delivered them and gave them the victory, but they had returned him evil for good, and committed violence against those he had sent to declare his word amongst them.* Having performed his duty in this respect, they went to Glasgow and Sterling, and then returned to England.

ANNO 1655. William Caton and John Stubbs visited their brethren in Scotland, administering such counsel, as in their low condition at that time, tended to their edification. John Stubbs returning to England, W. Caton went to Sterling, where he was carried before the governour, who at first accosted him in a rough and angry manner, but William being of a meek and Christian temper, by his soft answers appeased his wrath, so that he became cool and sedate. He was also at Glasgow, and went into the great cathedral there, where after their worship was ended, he had an opportunity of speaking to the people in the yard, the English soldiers, in garrison there not permitting any injury to be done him. He was likewise at Dowglas, where he published the Truth without much opposition.

In October 1657, George Fox was at Edinburgh, where he was summoned to appear before the Council, who sent an officer to his inn with the following order, *viz.*

Tuesday, the 8th of October 1657, at His Highness's Council in Scotland

ORDERED, That *George Fox* do appear before the Council on
 Tuesday the 15th of October next, in the Forenoon.

E. DOWNING, Clerk of the Council

He appeared accordingly, and after examination, they told him, that *He must depart the Nation of Scotland by that day sevensnight.* Nevertheless, he continued travelling up and down through several parts of that country ...

(TO BE CONTINUED)

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held on Monday 15 May 2017 at Edinburgh Meeting House

2017/05/01 Worship

During opening worship *Quaker Faith & Practice* 28.11 has been read to us. We have been reminded of the importance of speaking and writing from our living experience, and of doing this in a clear and accessible way.

2017/05/02 Introductions

We have ensured those present know each other's names and meetings. The attendance will be recorded in the concluding minute.

2017/05/03 Minutes of our last meeting, held on 18 March 2017 at Greenpark Community Centre, Polmont.

We record that by between-meetings procedure Area Meeting clerks agreed the following corrected Minute 2017/03/03 (c).

2017/03/03 Matters arising

c. Militarisation in society (minutes 2014/10/06, 2014/11/04a, 2015/01/04a, 2015/02/06, 2015/04/04a 2015/05/04, 2015/08/04a, 2015/10/05a, 2015/11/04a refer)

The joint Scottish Quaker/Forces Watch petition to the Scottish Parliament, calling for greater scrutiny, guidance and consultation on armed forces visits to schools in Scotland, is still under consideration by the Public Petitions Committee. We note that on 2 March the Committee agreed to invite John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) to give evidence at a future meeting, and to accept the offer of a briefing from the Ministry of Defence.

The minutes of Area Meeting held on 18 March 2017 at Greenpark Community Centre, Polmont. were amended accordingly and have been signed and entered in the minute book.

2017/05/04 Matters arising

Clerking Meeting for Learning (minute 2017/03/12 (1) refers)

Twenty Friends from eight of our local meetings, plus the clerk of General Meeting for Scotland, attended the Woodbrooke on the Road clerks' training day on 29 April. Suggestions for support for clerks within Area Meeting are being taken forward.

2017/05/05 Recording Between Meetings Decision

We record the following:

Recommendation from the Festival Committee

*17 April, 2017: Further to minute 2016/11/06, we have received a request from the Festival Committee that **Mary's Meals** be included in the list of charities to be supported for the next three years. As a decision is needed before our next Area Meeting on 15 May, Area Meeting clerks have used between-meetings procedure to agree to this request.*

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk

Alastair Cameron, Assistant Clerk

[*Information about Mary's Meals, was in Sesame 200 (pp. 13-14); for more, see: www.marysmeals.org.uk]*

2017/05/06 Area Meeting Library Review report

Further to minute 2016/11/10 the Library Review Group have completed their task and a summary of their report was circulated with the draft agenda for this meeting. Friends were advised that an electronic copy of the full report was available from the Area Meeting clerk and some paper copies have been made available today.

To fulfill their task the review group sought a wide range of views: sending out an electronic survey to Friends on the Area Meeting circulation list; consulting Local Meetings, the Meeting House Managers and the librarian of Glasgow Meeting. They met twice with the Library Committee and carried out some online research.

Sara Davies and Clayton Cameron have presented the report and answered our questions.

The current situation is that the library is underused, overfull and the purchase of new books has stopped. It is not widely known that there is an online catalogue <http://www.quakerbib.org.uk/>. Most use of the library comes from Central Edinburgh Meeting.

The review shows that Friends want the library to continue and to be housed at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House but they also want changes to make it more attractive and comfortable, turning it into a learning and resource centre.

The review group has brought forward the following proposal:

'THE RECOMMENDATION IS TO KEEP THE LIBRARY AND REFRESH IT

'Refresh library and start this process with an interim library committee for the

process of development, with a maximum commitment to the end of 2018, then a single librarian nominated through usual process.'

We understand that a budget of up to £10,000 would be required to fully refresh the library and that there are Friends who are willing to serve on an interim library committee until the end of 2018.

We have discussed this proposal and agree to support it in principle. We endorse the creation of a modern, welcoming library space, which could be used in many ways, including as a resource centre. We ask our treasurer and trustees to consider the financial implications of this development and suggest that they set a budget for it. The Library Review Group are willing to meet with the trustees and to answer questions about these proposals.

We thank the Library Review Group for their work and Sara and Clayton for presenting the group's report.

We are grateful to the Library committee for their committed work over many years. The members of this committee wish it noted that they are willing to advise and support those who take over from them.

2017/05/07 Membership matters

Applications for Membership

[We have received an application for membership and appoint visitors accordingly.]

Diana Simcock

We have heard the report of Phil Lucas' and Anna Mitchell's visit to Diana Simcock on 22 April, 2017. Diana has little experience of any church or faith tradition but since moving to East Lothian she began to seek a spiritual community. Her memory of the integrity and forthrightness of a family friend who was a Quaker, led to her looking for a Quaker Meeting in the area. She has been attending East Lothian Meeting for about two years and participates fully in the life of the meeting. Along with others in the meeting, she has recently completed the *Becoming Friends* course. As well as reading about Quakers, she has signed up for a Woodbrooke course on clerking to help her give practical service to the local meeting. She has committed herself to the Quaker way, including service to the Quaker community.

We are pleased to accept Diana into membership of this Area Meeting and we welcome her in person, as she is with us this evening.

Karina McIntosh

The report of David Turner's and Rachel Frith's visit to Karina McIntosh has been read to us. Karina first encountered Quakers at school through a teacher who left to become a member of the Friends Ambulance Unit during World War II. She briefly attended Oxford Meeting but for many years she was a member of the Church of England, where she found spiritual inspiration in the music and liturgy. Since coming to Edinburgh, she has worshipped regularly at Central Edinburgh Local Meeting and has attended meetings for worship for business. She has an active interest in peace expressed through her membership of Campaign Against Arms Trade and is one of our representatives on the Northern Friends Peace Board.

We are pleased to welcome Karina into membership of this Area Meeting and ask Brian Mayes to welcome her and inform Central Edinburgh Local Meeting.

Transfer of Membership (In)

Gillian Smith

We have received a request to accept the transfer of Gillian Smith's membership from York Area Meeting to South East Scotland Area Meeting. The request came in the form of a minute of record, rather than a Certificate of Transfer. We accept this transfer and ask our Assistant Clerk (Membership) to inform York Area Meeting.

We welcome Gillian, who attends South Edinburgh Local Meeting.

Anna V. Phillips

We have received a Certificate of Transfer of membership for Anna V. Phillips, from Live Oaks Friends Meeting, Houston, Texas U.S.A. We accept the transfer and ask our Assistant Clerk (Membership) to send a Certificate of Acceptance to the clerk of Live Oaks Meeting.

We welcome Anna, who attends Central Edinburgh Local Meeting.

Transfer of Membership (out)

We have received a Certificate of Acceptance for **Lucy Zawadska**, issued by Cornwall Area Meeting on 23 April, 2017.

We have been notified by Cumberland Area Meeting that the transfer of **Nicky Moore's** membership was accepted on 8 April, 2017. We ask our Assistant Clerk (Membership) to check that the appropriate certificates of transfer have been exchanged between the two meetings.

Resignation from Membership

David Hume of Tweeddale Local Meeting has given notice that he wishes to resign his membership of the Religious Society of Friends.

We have heard that David has given much thought to this and it is with deep regret that we agree to his request and ask our Assistant Clerk (Membership) to amend our records.

We wish David well and ask our clerk to send him a card thanking him for his service over the years.

Termination of Membership

In accordance with *Quaker Faith & Practice*, 5th edition, 11.30 b, we agree to terminate the membership of the following Friends, all of whom have lost contact with this Area Meeting. We are satisfied that reasonable attempts to trace and contacted them have been made and have failed.

Margaret Jago	Mark Norris
Daphne Pease	Mary Tebbie

In accordance with *Quaker Faith & Practice*, 5th edition, 11.30 a, we agree to terminate the membership of the following Friends, who have in recent years shown no interest in the life of the Society of Friends.

Guy Norris	Tessa Parkes
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2017/05/08 Marriage of Ann Kerr and James Friend (Minute 2017/03/08

refers)

Following a conversation with Ann and James, Area Meeting Elders bring forward the names of Elizabeth Allen and Rachel Frith to serve as Elders at this marriage. We appoint these Friends accordingly.

2017/05/09 Marjorie Farquharson's legacy

Our trustees have informed us that Marjorie Farquharson has left a legacy to South East Scotland AM: an interim payment of £18,000.00 has been made. We are very grateful to Marjorie for her generous bequest.

2017/05/10 Scottish Government's Consultation on 'Fracking':

- a. Minute from South Edinburgh Local Meeting**
- b. Minute from Polmont Local Meeting**
- c. BYM response to the consultation (AM minute 2017/03/09 refers)**

a) Minute from South Edinburgh Local Meeting

We have received the following minute on "fracking" from South Edinburgh Local Meeting:

***South Edinburgh Quaker Meeting: Local Meeting for Worship for Business
after Meeting for Worship on Sunday 30 April 2017***

Extract Minute forwarded to South East Scotland Area Meeting

Unconventional Oil and Gas or “Fracking” – a Quaker concern

We heard about the Scottish Government’s invitation to respond to their Consultation on a Draft Scottish Energy Strategy. One of the associated documents outlined plans for a £10 billion Scotland’s Energy Efficiency Programme and one asked whether to make the Moratorium on “Fracking” a permanent ban.

We noted the statement from our Parliamentary Engagement Officer clearly supporting a ban on Fracking and Pendle Hill Quakers’ appeal for support on their Meeting for Witness against Fracking to be held on Saturday 6 May.

We felt very concerned that a clear message be given to the Government that fracking was not compatible with our Quaker witness. We were concerned that our individual and collective voice be heard on these matters and asked our Clerk to:

- *Write to all members and attenders in Local Meeting encouraging them to respond in very good time to the consultations with guidance on points to make;*
- *Submit a positive response to the Energy Strategy consultations including Scotland’s Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) and a negative response to the Talking Fracking consultation;*
- *Forward this Minute to Area Meeting in recognition of our concern about these issues and ask Area Meeting to respond in the same way to the Scottish Government consultations.*

We note this minute and have discussed the request that Area Meeting responds to the following Scottish Government’s consultations:

- a. Energy Strategy: Scotland’s Energy Efficiency Programme*
- b. Talking “Fracking”: a Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas*

We agree to respond to both of these consultations and ask David Somervell and Philip Ravell, subject to consent, to draft a formal response, which the clerk will then submit on behalf of Area Meeting.

b) Minute from Polmont Local Meeting

We have received and note the following minute from Polmont LM:

Minute from after Meeting Discussion Group, 14 May 2017:

Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction, Fracking.

‘We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is

used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation.'

Quaker Faith & Practice, 5th edition, 1.02, no. 42

Polmont Friends are united in our conviction that devastating global temperature rises can only be dealt with if we stop burning fossil fuels. Fracking and Unconventional Gas Extraction methods are fundamentally incompatible with our stewardship of the earth. These resources must stay in the ground.

We should channel our efforts instead into developing our green energy technologies, energy reduction and facilitating behaviour change towards reducing energy consumption.

Polmont Friends have engaged with the fracking debate to differing degrees but are committed to individually responding to the Scottish Government consultation.

c) Britain Yearly Meeting response to the consultation

We note that Britain Yearly Meeting submitted a response to the Scottish Government's public consultation Talking "Fracking" based on the view that Quakers in Britain consider that "an energy sector that works in harmony with a safe climate, that provides cost effective energy, and offers equitable economic opportunity and long-term jobs can only be achieved by banning unconventional gas and oil (UOG) and investing in renewable, efficient energy instead".

2017/05/11 General Meeting for Scotland

Further to minute 2017/03/10 we confirm that the proposed dates for General Meeting in 2018/ 19 are acceptable to us.

We ask Phil Lucas to write a report of General Meeting on 10 June in Glasgow, for *The Scottish Friend* and *The Friend*.

2017/05/12 Correspondence and notices

- a) **General Election, 8 June, 2017** Information to help us engage with the political process is available on the Quaker Vote website at www.quakervote.org.uk.
- b) **Reading Quaker Faith & Practice** Friends are invited to comment on what they have learned from reading *Quaker Faith & Practice* by completing the form at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ReadingQfp
- c) **Yearly Meeting Gathering 2017** Bursaries are still available to help Friends with the cost of attending YMG at Warwick University. Please consult your local overseer for details.

- d) **Two events on fracking in Edinburgh on 18 May:**
1. Workshop “Community Responses to fracking”, 1-5 pm at Drummond Library, High School Yards;
 2. Documentary film, *The Bentley Effect*, with panel discussion, including Tommy Sheppard, 5.30 pm for 6.00 – 8.30 pm at 50 George Sq.
- e) **Young Friends General Meeting Gathering, 26-29 May, Sheffield Meeting House** Young Friends (18 to 30ish) are invited to attend. More information available from the website: www.yfgm.quaker.org.uk
- f) **Refugee Week 19-25 June** If local meetings are organising an event in refugee week, please let Tim Gee know so as he can help promote it. timothyg@quaker.org.uk
- g) **Quaker Week 2017, 30 September – 8 October** The theme of Quaker week is ‘In turbulent times: be a Quaker’. To book a speaker, please contact speakers@quaker.org.uk
- h) **Edinburgh World Justice Festival 30 September - 15 October** The theme is associated with *Hope in uncertain times*. Details of how organisations can bid for listing their event will soon be on the website at www.ewjf.org.uk. Any Friend who is willing to help promote a Quaker-led session during the first week – please contact David Somervell.
- i) **Quaker Peace and Social Witness/ Quaker Council for European Affairs joint conference ‘Sanctuary Everywhere’, 1-3 December, Brussels** For more information and to register see qcea.org/events

2017/05/13 Closing minute

34 members and one attender representing all nine Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 17	Central Fife 1	East Lothian 3	Kelso 1	Penicuik 1
Polmont 3	Portobello & Musselburgh 2	South Edinburgh 4	Tweeddale 1 + 1A	

As requested by the clerks and following STIR recommendations (see AM minute, 2016/07/06) some of these Friends were acting as ‘core representatives’ of the AM clerking team, treasurers, trustees, elders, overseers and nominations committee.

We next meet on Saturday, 24 June, 2017 at Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn KY3 9SS for an all-day, all-age Area Meeting, hosted by Central Fife Local Meeting.

(Signed)
Elizabeth Allen, Clerk

YMG 2017 – Living out our faith in the world: working with others to make a difference

At the campus of the University of Warwick, the Recording Clerk and his staff are putting the finishing touches to this summer's Yearly Meeting Gathering. Over 1,300 Friends of all ages are coming, and there is room for a few more!

Whether you're coming for the whole week or just a day or two, there's still time to book; and to ensure no-one is unable to attend because of cost, there is plenty of bursary help available. The children's and young people's programmes are now fully booked, so the spaces left are only open to adults – what a great problem to have!

Here's a taste of the fascinating events you can dip into during the week:

Meet George Lakey, Professor in Peace and Conflict Studies at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, and a long term activist for social change. He's involved with activist groups at all levels, including Earth Quaker Action Team, a US group working for a just and sustainable economy.

Find out about Central & Southern Africa Yearly Meeting and the Quaker Peace Centre in Capetown. Cecile Nyiramana, clerk of Rwanda Yearly Meeting, Emma Condori Mamani, Director of Friends International Bilingual Center in Bolivia, Merryl Titus and Nokuthula Mbete will talk about Quaker work in their regions.

Bernard Longley, Mehru Fitter, Jatinder Birdi and Abdullah Sahin, will share their insights on interfaith issues. Abdullah will also reflect on the "Prevent" strategy [in English schools].

Get ideas from local Quakers, including North Wales Area Meeting's economic justice group, the Lancashire Living Wage group, and Friends involved in the City of Sanctuary movement.

And as always, you can find out more about what the staff of Britain Yearly Meeting do on your behalf, on peace, economic justice, housing, supporting meetings, providing hospitality and so much more.

You'll have lots of opportunities to renew friendships and make new ones. You can be creative, sing, dance, use the sports centre, write, draw or simply be. But most of all, YMG can deepen your understanding of Quakers and Quaker work. Don't miss what may possibly be the best week of your year.

Any questions, please email ym@quaker.org.uk or ring 020 7663 1040

Quaker Meetings for Worship in South East Scotland**Every Sunday**

Central Edinburgh: 7 Victoria Terrace	9.30 am & 11.00 am
South Edinburgh: Open Door, 420 Morningside Road	10.30 am
Polmont: Greenpark Community Centre	10.45 am
Kelso: Quaker Meeting House, Kelso	10.30 am

Every Wednesday

Mid-Week Meeting: 7 Victoria Terrace	12.30 – 1 pm
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First Sunday in the Month

Penicuik: Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik <i>Children welcome, bring and share lunch</i>	11.00 am
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First and Third Tuesdays in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms (opposite Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: contact Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk for details	1 – 1.30 pm
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Second Sunday in the Month

East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar	11.00 am
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Second and Fourth Sundays in the Month

Portobello & Musselburgh: Fisherrow Community Centre, South St, Musselburgh EH21 6AT. <i>Children welcome.</i>	11.00 am
Tweeddale: Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles <i>All welcome, but please phone to confirm 01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389</i>	10.30 am
Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (Kirk Wynd, opposite Old Kirk)	10.30 am

Fourth Sunday in the Month

North Edinburgh Meeting: Broughton St Mary's Church, Edinburgh	7.00 pm
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Fifth Sunday in the Month

Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (Kirk Wynd, opposite Old Kirk)	10.30 am
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Last Sunday in the Month

East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar	11.00 am
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Distribution of *Sesame* and *Scottish Friends Newsletter*

The current practice is to distribute one copy of *Sesame* and the *Scottish Friends Newsletter* to every Member and Attender household. Contributions to the costs of *Sesame* are always warmly welcomed by the Area Meeting Treasurer, Mark Hutcheson. An email version of *Sesame* is more ecological and is free; if you would prefer to receive it this way, or to change the address to which a paper copy is sent, or if you would like to get one by post and currently do not, please contact Kim Smith at kimsmith@yahoo.com. A large print version is also available on request. Published by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, South East Scotland Area Meeting, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. Scottish Charity No. SC019165. Printed by Footprint UK, Riverside Works, Edinburgh Road, Jedburgh TD8 6EE.